

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 M-02 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 SSO-00 SCCT-02 /146 W

----- 102689

P R 241124Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 101

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

CDR USSAG NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5802

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AFSP, LA

SUBJECT: STRIKE BY TRANSAIR PROTECTIVE SERVICE GUARD  
FORCE AGAINST MISSION INSTALLATIONS

1. AT 0600 HOURS JULY 24, LARGE GROUP OF GUARDS FROM  
TRANSAIR PROTECTIVE SERVICES (TAPS), (FORMER MISSION  
GUARD SERVICE), WHICH PERFORMS GUARD DUTIES AT MISSION  
INSTALLATIONS AND AMERICAN RESIDENCES, SHOWED UP AT  
GUARD HEADQUARTERS AND LAUNCHED VIGOROUS "PROTEST  
DEMONSTRATION". TRANSAIR IS PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRM WHICH  
HOLDS MISSION PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONTRACT AND IS AFFILIATED  
WITH ROYAL AIR LAOS. DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTED AGAINST  
ALLEGED ARBITRARY ACTS BY A THAI-NATIONAL SUPERVISOR,  
AND ALSO DEMANDED INCREASED WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS.  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR TOLD DEMONSTRATORS THAT HE WOULD  
MEET WITH DELEGATION TO DISCUSS DEMANDS AT 1000 HOURS THIS  
MORNING. FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION, ALL TAPS GUARDS LEFT  
THEIR POSTS IN GENERAL STRIKE. MANY EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY  
MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACTOR ALSO STRUCK IN SYMPATHY AT

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SAME TIME.

2. SMALL DELEGATION CAME TO MEETING, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO "STUDENT ADVISERS," AND BEGAN DISCUSSION OF DEMANDS WITH MISSION MANAGEMENT. IT WAS QUICKLY AGREED THAT THAI SUPERVISOR SHOULD BE REMOVED AND THIS WAS EFFECTED IMMEDIATELY. STRIKERS ALSO DEMANDED INCREASE IN BASIC MINIMUM WAGE, FROM 80 KIP TO 180 KIP AN HOUR. THEY COMPLAINED THAT OTHER SALARIES HAD BEEN RAISED SOME MONTHS AGO AT TIME WHEN ALL EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES' SALARIES HAD BEEN INCREASED, BUT GUARDS' SALARIES HAD LAGGED BEHIND. WITH THREAT OF DEVALUATION OF KIP IMMINENT AND PRICES UP IN VIENTIANE OVER 35 PERCENT SINCE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, GUARDS' REPRESENTATIVE FELT THEIR DEMANDS WERE JUSTIFIED. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR PROPOSED THAT EMBASSY STUDY DEMANDS AND SAID HE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH REPRESENTATIVES TOMORROW AT 1500 HOURS WITH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

3. MEANWHILE, LARGE GROUP OF STRIKING TAPS GUARDS MOVED INTO GSO AND TAPS COMPOUNDS AND LOCKED BOTH ENTRANCES. THEY CLIMBED ONTO WATER TOWER AND SHUT OFF WATER SYSTEM AND CUT ELECTRICAL LINES FROM GENERATORS WHICH SERVED MANY AMERICAN FACILITIES IN TOWN. THEY ALSO SEIZED AND OCCUPIED CENTRAL OFFICE OF TAPS, HOLDING AMERICAN SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL INSIDE. WITNESSES INDICATED THAT ABOUT 100 OUT OF 250 GUARDS INVOLVED IN OCCUPATION OF GSO COMPOUND HAVE BEEN DRINKING SINCE DEMONSTRATION THIS MORNING.

4. WE HAVE CONTACTED JOINT POLICE FORCE OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE AND ARE ARRANGING FOR POLICE GUARDS AT AMERICAN FACILITIES IN TOWN. WE HAVE ALSO ARRANGED WITH VIENTIANE PROVINCE POLICE TO OBTAIN GUARDS FOR USAID HOUSING COMPOUND (KM-6) AND USAID WAREHOUSES AT KM-7 AND KM-9 OUTSIDE CITY.

5. WE BELIEVE MOST STRIKERS' DEMANDS CAN BE MET BUT PROBLEM NOW IS CALMING DOWN THEIR TEMPER SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS CAN PROCEED IN ORDERLY MANNER. WE SUSPECT THAT, WITH JOINT POLICE FORCES INVOLVED IN PROTECTING MISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACILITIES, RADIO PATHET LAO WILL SOON START PROPAGANDA EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF TAPS GUARDS' STRIKE. VIENTIANE DAILY XAT LAO WILL CARRY STORY ON STRIKE TOMORROW MORNING. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT FULLY INFORMED. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, WAGES, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, FRINGE BENEFITS, LABOR STRIKES, SECURITY GUARDS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 24 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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